

Association with adults



Association with adults is one of the methods used in both Boy Scouts and Venturing. While these programs are youth-led, there are still adults present to mentor and help the youth leaders.

Every month at the troop Patrol Leaders Council, patrol leaders, the senior patrol leader and assistant senior patrol leader discuss plans for upcoming meetings and activities. This gets reported to the troop committee. One of the questions asked by troop leaders is "What do you need from the adults?" Doing it this way the scouts understand that leaders are following the scouts lead, the adults are willing to work with them to help them carry out the ideas they have presented.

Troop leaders want the youth leadership to lead, but don't want them to be overwhelmed. Leading a

troop is a lot of responsibility for the SPL and ASPL and patrol leaders.

Working with adults prepares Boy Scouts as they transition from boys to men. Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. The Boy Scout program provides the opportunity for adult association:

- By having Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters serve as mentors to the youth leadership
- Through the Scoutmaster Conference
- Through Boards of Review
- Through merit badge counselors

More indirectly, troop parents or adult leaders who are willing to listen to scouts, encourage them and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives. Maybe even more important is that youth learn by watching how adults deal with each other. It is very important that leaders and parents provide a model that scouts will follow not only in the Troop, but in the community, in school and later on in life.

Scouting is a very special place for youth and adults. As adult leaders, we understand that our role is to create a safe place where scouts can learn and grow and explore and play and take on responsibilities—and fail, and get up and try again. For those who are transitioning from cub scouts, this is a very different role that can take some time getting used to.

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/BoyScouts/TrainingModules/OrientationforNewBoyScoutParents.aspx>

<http://scoutermom.com/1566/methods-of-scouting-association-with-adults/>



Advancement

Advancement may be the most recognized method in Scouting.

Despite being so recognizable, the Boy Scout advancement program is subtle; it places a series of challenges in front of a Scout in a manner that is fun and educational. As Scouts meet challenges, they achieve the aims of Boy Scouting.

Advancement gives the Scout things to do when they go outdoors, and it gives Patrols something to work together on. Advancement also contributes to a Scout's personal growth, provides opportunities for leadership and adult associations, and, maybe most important, a reason to go outside.

Advancement in Scouting is specifically designed to present every boy with a big challenge, broken up into smaller and smaller challenges. A Scout learns to:

1. set goals,
2. develop plans for meeting those goals,
3. motivate himself to do what needs to be done,
4. always try his best and keep trying, and

5. recognize that his perception of what he can do is often wrong.

The Scout learns about his personal abilities and limitations, and ways to overcome those limitations and take advantage of those abilities.

One of the greatest needs of young men is confidence. There are three kinds of confidence that young men need: in themselves, in peers, and in leaders. The Advancement program helps youth gain these confidences. In addition, at each level, scouts are recognized for their effort once the requirements are completed. Recognition is an important component of advancement for the Scouts, for the parents and for the leaders.

In Scouting, advancement cannot be looked at in a vacuum. Whether scouts complete all the requirements and become an Eagle scout or stop sometime before Eagle scout, the knowledge, skills and life lessons learned in scouting through the Advancement method will help them mature and succeed as they mature become and adults

(<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/CubScouts/Parents/About/pandm.aspx> & <http://www.bsatroop780.org/methods/EightMethods.html>)

Edit

Leadership Development



The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

Did you know?

Leadership Development did not emerge as a distinct "Method" of Scouting in the BSA until 1972, when the Sixth Edition of the *Scoutmaster's Handbook* was published. During the 1970s the emphasis was taken away from the importance of traditional Scouting skills. The term "campfire," for instance, did not even appear in the index of the 8th Edition of the *Scout Handbook*.

Leadership had emerged as a separate set of cognitive skills that could be learned indoors rather than as a natural consequence of using the Patrol Method in the outdoors, where William "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt said all Scouting belongs.

It was in the 1970s that the BSA "modernized" away from traditional Hillcourt-style Scouting into a business and "scientific" methodology. (for more information see

<http://www.inquiry.net/leadership/index.htm>)

Whatever your position on this trend, we can all agree that a Scout will not see a need for learning leadership skills until he has had some success (however small) in leading a group. Scouting in a Patrol still best provides every boy an opportunity to experience leadership.

Today we try to focus on leadership development by understanding that:

- Leadership is a skill that can be learned only by doing it.
- Boys learn planning, organization, and decision making.

What we do in scouting helps give scouts the confidence and ability to be leaders in the future. In Scouting, boys learn to be good leaders . . . and to be good followers.

http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Aims_and_Methods#Leadership_Development

<http://www.quapawbsa.org/parent/#Methods>

Ideals



Each week we will review one of the Methods of Scouting so that the scouts, leaders and parents will be able to have a better understanding of the how the aims of Scouting (character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness) is achieved.

"Methods" are found at all levels of scouting. In Boy Scouts, Venturing & Sea Scout, the first Method is IDEALS.

The IDEALS of scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, the Law, The Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve. The goals are high for scouts and as he reaches for them, he has some control over what and who he becomes.

By helping the scouts learn to live the ideals (Scout Oath, Law, Motto & Slogan) we are preparing them to make ethical choices throughout their lifetime. Just as adults we are not expected to be perfect, Boy Scouts are not expected to be perfect, in fact it is through their mistakes that they may learn the most. Ranging in age from 11 to 18, scouting provides the opportunity for youth to learn not only from adults "telling them what to do" but from other youth, like themselves, learning to be leaders. We can reinforce this method if we as adults live by the IDEALS.

The Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan are more than words said at the beginning of a meeting. They are words to grow by, to live by and to lead by.

Do you have any thoughts about how the IDEALS helps us in the unit? Share your thoughts with your Patrol Leader or PLC meeting or at the regularly scheduled Leader's Meeting.

Outdoor Programs

Scouting's Camping Program—Ever-Increasing Challenge Out-of-Doors



Outdoor adventure is the promise made to boys when they join Scouting. Boys yearn for outdoor programs that stir their imagination and interest.

In the outdoors, boys have opportunities to acquire skills that make them more self-reliant. They can explore canoe and hiking trails and complete challenges they first thought were beyond their ability. Attributes of good character become part of a boy as he learns to cooperate to meet outdoor challenges that may include extreme weather, difficult trails and portages, and dealing with nature's unexpected circumstances. Scouts plan and carry out activities with thoughtful guidance from their Scoutmaster and other adult leaders. Good youth leadership, communication, and teamwork enable them to achieve goals they have set for themselves, their patrol or squad, and their troop or team.

Learning by doing is a hallmark of outdoor education. Unit meetings offer information and knowledge used on outdoor adventures each month throughout the year. A leader may describe and demonstrate a Scouting skill at a meeting, but the way Scouts truly learn outdoor skills is to do it themselves on a troop outing.

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/OutdoorProgram.aspx>



Patrol Method

The Patrol is, like the ideals, the foundation of the Troop. The Patrol is where the Scout learns citizenship, it is where they practice democracy, leadership, and teamwork. It is where they find companionship, and sometimes, lifelong friendships, and a place where they belong. The Patrol is unit of Scouting. Whether for work or play, the Patrol is where Scouting happens!

In the Patrol you have democracy on the small-scale. The boys choose the leader they would like to follow, they plan their own activities and take part in activities planned at the Troop level. When they plan, they execute those activities together. In a good Patrol, Scout spirit is steadily at work, prompting the participation of each Scout.

The Patrol elects its own leadership. This is an important part of Patrol life. The decisions the Patrol makes in choosing its leadership is up to them and should not be influenced. The Patrol Leader grows as a leader and the rest of the Patrol develops strong skills at being good followers. Soon every Scout gets his turn and he will reap the benefits of good followers when he steps up to lead.

The Patrol leader is part of the Patrol Leaders Council (PLC). They run the Troop. Using the Patrol Method, the Patrol Leaders Council will make decisions that have the best interest in the Troop in mind. They will push the Patrols in directions of adventure, service, and commitment to the Troop. The PLC along with help from the Scoutmaster is heart of the Patrol Method. When Baden Powell spoke of the Patrol Leaders Council he said, "... is not so much to save trouble for the Scoutmaster as to give responsibility to the boy- since this is the very best way of all means of developing character."

The Patrol is the heart beat of the Troop. Patrols that demonstrate spirit and enthusiasm tend to be great Patrols and have a lot of fun getting the most out of Scouting.

There are NO ADULTS in Patrols. Adults do not participate with Patrols and aside from the Scoutmaster have no say in the Patrol Leaders Council. The Patrol method is not always pretty. It takes on many shapes and sizes and the level of struggle will vary from Patrol to Patrol. It is important for the Senior Patrol Leader to tackle as many of those struggles as possible. He, after all is the leader that Patrol Leaders look to for the answer.

Give them a chance to run their Troop. This is an important method, without the Patrol method you do not have Scouting.

Have a Great Scouting Day!

<http://thescoutmasterminute.net/2012/04/19/methods-patrols/>

Personal Growth

Scouting skills—what a young person learns to do—are important, but not as important as the growth achieved through participating in a unit program. The concern is for total, well-rounded development. Age-appropriate surmountable hurdles are placed before members, and as they face them they learn about themselves and gain confidence. Success is achieved when we fulfill the BSA Mission Statement and when we accomplish the aims of Scouting: character development, citizenship training, and mental and physical fitness. We know we are on the right track when we see youth accepting responsibility, demonstrating self-reliance, and caring for themselves and others; when they learn to weave Scouting ideals into their lives; and when we can see they will be positive contributors to our American society.

As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn.

Scout Slogan

Do a Good Turn Daily

This does not mean that you should do just one Good Turn during the day and then stop.

It means you should always be looking for extra opportunities to help others, quietly and without boasting.

Remember that a Good Turn is an act of kindness, not just something you do because it is good manners. Good Turns should be done for family, friends, adults, children, and especially for those that are not able to do the task themselves



http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Aims_and_Methods#Personal_Growth
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/GuideToAdvancement/AdvancementDefined.aspx>

The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

Uniforms



Uniforming

The **uniform** makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting.

The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.

The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

<http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Uniform>